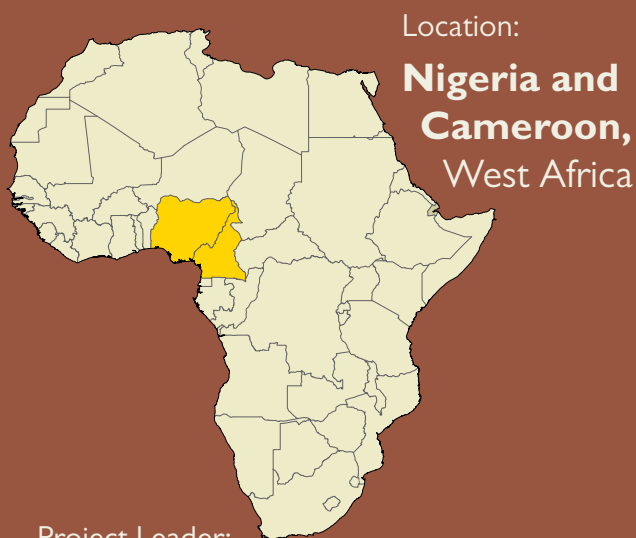


A NEW SUBSPECIES OF CHIMPANZEE UNDER THREAT

Project:
Chimpanzee Action Plan



Location:

**Nigeria and
Cameroon,**
West Africa

Project Leader:
Dr. Bethan Morgan,
Zoological Society of San Diego

Partners:



Zoological Society of San Diego



Wildlife Conservation Society



SUNY-Albany

A New Subspecies of Chimpanzee

Like its cousin the Cross River gorilla, the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee is highly endangered. As with the Cross River gorilla, these chimpanzees have been significantly affected by hunting and deforestation. This rarest of chimpanzee subspecies was only recently identified as different from other chimpanzee populations. In part because of this recent discovery, these chimpanzees have been understudied. Little is known of their distribution, behavior and habitat requirements. Even the number of chimpanzees remaining is unknown.

Developing a Conservation Action Plan

Like with any difficult task, achieving meaningful conservation of the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee has been made more complicated by the lack of a clear and defined plan. In order to address the problem, a number of organizations, including the North Carolina Zoo, came together to organize a series of meetings and create a comprehensive conservation action plan for these chimpanzees. Under the auspices of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, these meetings brought together key researchers, government officials, wildlife managers and conservationists share information about these chimpanzees and to develop a framework for their conservation. These meetings were the first-ever gathering of all the experts on this



The Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee is the most endangered chimpanzee subspecies.

chimpanzee subspecies. Attendees at the meetings presented data on chimpanzee distribution, genetics, behavior and conservation work to date.

Conservationists analyze and discuss data at the action planning workshop.

